

Town of Camden
Reorganization & Regular Meeting of Council
May 2, 2011
Town of Camden Municipal Building

At 7:02 p.m. Mayor Maly called the Camden Town Council Meeting to order and led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence in recognition of our troops currently serving, those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

The following persons were in attendance:

Council Members

John Green, Councilman
Justin King, Councilman
Jeffrey Lewin, Councilman
Kevin Casquarelli, Councilman
Richard Maly, Mayor

Solicitor

Craig T. Eliassen, Esq.

Administrative Staff

James O. Plumley, Town Manager
Charlotte L. Klauder, Town Clerk
Chief William Bryson, Camden Police Dept.

Public

Attachment

Notice

Notice of this meeting has been made in accordance with the Delaware Open Public Meetings Act by posting on April 21, 2011, copies of the agenda in the following manner:

- a. The electronic sign; and
- b. The official bulletin boards; and
- c. The official website; and
- d. Publication in the Delaware State News on April 22, 2011.

Amendments to the Agenda

There were no amendments to the agenda.

Announcements

Mayor Maly announced Town Hall will be closed Monday, May 30th in observance of Memorial Day.

Minutes

Motion made by Councilman King, seconded by Councilman Casquarelli, to approve the April 4th minutes as written. The vote was affirmative and the motion carried.

Correspondence

- a) Letter from Mr. Harry Maule pertaining to condemned property located at 312 Meeting House Lane.

Police Department Report (attachment)

Chief Bryson's report included but was not limited to the following:

- All of the robberies have been solved
- Collected 195 pounds of unused drugs at the Take Back Event
- Revised National Advisory – there are no longer color codes; there are only 2 levels
 - Elevated
 - Imminent

C.W.F.D.

Mr. Jester reported the following data:

- 56 Fire Alarms
- 100 Ambulance Calls

Mr. Jester indicated the Fire Department received notice from DelDOT pertaining to road closures, namely if you intend on closing a road for any reason you must first obtain a permit from DelDOT at least 90 days in advance.

C.W.S.W.A.

Ms. Tracy Green reported the next scheduled CWSWA meeting would be held 7:00 p.m., May 10th, at the CWSWA facility located on S. West Street. She informed the public the Authority is currently awaiting the results of water rate comparisons from the Delaware Rural Water Association.

Friends of Historic Camden

Ms. Bobbi Toner reported the following:

- The 1st Annual Historic Camden Days held May 1st was a great success

Mayor's Report (attachment)

Mayor Maly's report included but was not limited to the following:

- Due to delays in obtaining DelDOT approvals Redner's Markets have withdrawn their plans to build in Camden

- Senate Bill 36 was entered into the Legislative agenda in early April
- Flag ceremony is scheduled for May 9th at 11:30 a.m. The American flag has been provided by Senator Tom Carper and the Delaware flag by Senator Brian Bushweller

Finance Report

Motion made by Councilman Lewin, seconded by Councilman Casquarelli to approve the April finance report subject to audit. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Motion made by Councilman Green, seconded by Councilman Casquarelli to approve the May finance report subject to audit. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Old Business / Public Hearing

Second Reading of the Fiscal Year 2011/2012 Budget

Mr. Plumley presented the second reading by title only, which included the elimination of three (3) positions – two (2) administrative and one (1) police. He stated this budget was approved at the January meeting.

At this time Councilman Green provided copies of a budget that he would like considered for adoption. He stated this version of the budget includes but is not limited to the following:

- 18% tax increase (in accordance with preliminary approval of 11/01/10 by Council and an approval by 1st reading of Council on 4/4/11)
- Elimination of two (2) administrative employees
- Furloughs for Police staff (including Chief & Captain) as a result of discussions which led to concessions preliminarily approved by the Officer's Union in an effort to keep a position

Chief Bryson expressed the following concerns:

- Vehicle maintenance
- No additional vehicle
- Special duty returned on quarterly basis
 - It generates revenue (approximately \$7,000 per quarter)
 - Can be tracked
- Furloughs were preliminarily approved by the union and would consist of 8 hours per officer, per month for remainder of the current contract only (approximately \$22,230)
- Unpaid time for court appearances (no comp or overtime for the remainder of the current contract)

Linda Moore – Newell's Creek

Ms. Moore stated that while she is appreciative of the Chief's willingness to make certain cuts, the fact that the Town of Camden's taxes are higher than Kent County's is abominable.

Bobbi Toner – Barclay Farms

Ms. Toner commended Councilmen Green & King for not cutting police officers.

Larry Dougherty – Barclay Farms

Mr. Dougherty expressed his dismay with regard to yet another tax increase.

Jill Fuchs – Barclay Farms

Ms. Fuchs expressed her concern for the seniors with limited finances, specifically when they pay for school taxes. Councilman Green reminded Ms. Fuchs the Town does not collect school taxes and Mayor Maly added Kent County offers a senior discount.

Tracy Torres – Newell's Creek

Ms. Torres expressed her dismay for the lack of follow through as it pertains to the reduced assessment she received on her property last fiscal year, which was not reflected in the Town of Camden taxes. She stated she had spoken with Ms. Driggins who in turn spoke with former Mayor Mooney with regard to this matter. Ms. Torres recalled a promise of a tax credit.

Motion made by Councilman Casquarelli, seconded by Councilman Green to adjourn the public hearing and reopen the regular meeting. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Motion made by Councilman Green seconded by Councilman Casquarelli to accept Councilman Green's budget (JG18). Motion failed.

Councilman Lewin amended the motion to include JG18 as option "C" in the proposals. This motion was seconded by Councilman King. The vote was unanimous and the motion to include Councilman Green's proposed budget with Proposals A & B passed.

A discussion followed.

A motion was made by Councilman Lewin to accept Councilman Green's proposed budget known as "Option C", seconded by Councilman King. On roll call the following vote was recorded:

AYES: Green, Casquarelli, King, Lewin, Maly

NAYS: None

The motion carried.

New Business

Board and Commission Appointments

Mayor Maly called for a motion to accept the following nominations to the Planning and Zoning Commission:

Michael Schock (reappointment)	Term to expire March 2014
Sherry Goldsmith	Term to expire March 2012
Kevin Cullen	Term to expire March 2012

Motion made by Councilman Lewin, seconded by Councilman King to accept the above appointments to the Planning and Zoning Commission. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Mayor Maly called for a motion to accept the following nomination to the Board of Adjustment:

Michael Prystajko (reappointment) Term to expire March 2014

Motion made by Councilman Lewin, seconded by Councilman King to accept the above appointment to the Board of Adjustment. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Energy Grant

Mr. Plumley explained the Town of Camden received an energy grant which includes solar panels. He stated as the Camden-Wyoming Fire Company was included in the grant and the solar panels would be conducive to saving energy on their building as it faces north/south, he would ask Council to consider transferring the funds to the Camden-Wyoming Fire Company.

Motion made by Councilman Green, seconded by Councilman Casquarelli to transfer the solar panel portion of the grant to the Camden-Wyoming Fire Company. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Public Comment

Linda Moore – Thomas Harmon Drive

Ms. Moore expressed her dismay with regard to the lack of public input as it pertains to the budget.

John Fifer – Willow Grove Road

Mr. Fifer informed Council that solar panels do not need to face north/south to function properly.

Susan Savage – Meeting House Lane

Ms. Savage questioned whether or not administrative employees would receive increases. Councilman Lewin stated no increases were anticipated in Town Hall; however the police were contracted.

Dorothy Kope – Camden-Wyoming Avenue

Ms. Kope expressed her displeasure with regard to a neighboring vacant property which is in disrepair.

Ken Cassero – Fred Circle

Mr. Cassero questioned when action will be taken on the closing of Thomas Harmon Drive between the residential and commercial development. Mayor Maly stated a report will be given at the July Council meeting.

Jennifer Festi – Thomas Harmon Drive

Ms. Festi expressed her desire for a concrete barricade to close Thomas Harmon Drive.

Steve Taing – Newell's Creek Drive

Mr. Taing questioned whether or not a public discussion will be held at the July meeting with regard to the Thomas Harmon Drive matter. Mayor Maly stated once a report is given, Council may consider holding a public meeting at a later date.

Gwen Holloman – Fred Circle

Ms. Holloman asked Council to consider public safety when deliberating the Thomas Harmon matter.

Waleska Novoa – Thomas Harmon Drive

Ms. Waleska spoke of her son's cerebral palsy and her concern for his safety.

Larry Dougherty – Paynters Way

Mr. Dougherty expressed his gratitude for the effort put forth on the budget.

Jose Orlando – Newell's Creek Drive

Mr. Orlando offered the following statements:

- Cherry trees throughout Town require trimming
- The welcome to Newell's Creek sign on Upper King Road has yet to be installed
- Thanked staff for adding the "s" to his street sign
- Thomas Harmon drive should not be closed

Yvonne Simmon – Theater Lane

Ms. Simmon reiterated the concern for safety on Thomas Harmon Drive.

Jill Fuchs – Prouse Lane

Ms. Fuchs suggested the Town look into advertising alternative routes to deter people from cutting through the Newell's Creek Community.

Council Comments

Councilman Casquerelli stated a link for the Kent County senior discount should be placed on the Town website.

Councilman Green reminded Ms. Klauder of the contingency on the Texas Roadhouse expansion approval requiring a crosswalk and signage. He also requested an executive session to include Mr. Eliassen and Mr. Plumley for the purpose of discussing 118 North Main Street.

Adjournment

At 9:00 p.m. a motion was made by Councilman King, seconded by Councilman Casquarelli, to adjourn the meeting. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Charlotte L. Klauder
Town Clerk